



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association is proud to recognize Dr. Chris Johnson of Oakland-Craig Public Schools as this week's Above and Beyond Award nominee. A

volunteer, coach, educator, and community leader, Dr. Johnson has given selflessly to the students and athletes of Oakland-Craig for nearly a decade—and his impact cannot be overstated.



For the past nine years, Chris has served as a volunteer assistant coach for the Oakland-Craig High School girls basketball team, donating countless hours without ever receiving a paycheck. He has been an essential piece of the program's success—helping lead the team to five state tournament appearances in six years, including the 2025 Class C2 State Championship, the first in school history. But his influence extends far beyond wins and titles.

Known affectionately as the team's "chief morale officer," Chris brings unmatched positivity, deep basketball knowledge, and calming leadership to every practice and game. Players trust him. Parents admire him. Coaches rely on him. Whether offering technical instruction, emotional support, injury



rehab, or just a listening ear—Chris is always there.

As a professor at Creighton University and a licensed physical therapist, Chris shares his expertise freely, helping Oakland-Craig athletes recover from injuries and build strength, often working behind the scenes to keep student-athletes healthy and confident—both mentally and physically. His care has saved seasons, including supporting injured volleyball players who returned just in time to compete.

Beyond the high school level, Chris's commitment to youth is unwavering. He leads elementary basketball, football, and baseball teams, and even founded and runs a free Saturday Skills Camp that brings together 2nd–8th graders and high school volunteers to learn, grow, and build community through sport. In doing so, he models the importance of service, mentorship, and joy in the game.

Chris also serves as a mentor in the Teammates program, works on the Oakland-Craig Community Advisory Committee, and is one of the most dependable volunteers in the district—showing up whenever help is needed, always with a smile. Whether it's coaching, organizing, training, teaching, mentoring, or just showing up—Chris leads with heart, humility, and purpose.

Dr. Chris Johnson is not just a coach. He is a role model, a mentor, a healer, and a builder of community. His boundless energy, generous spirit, and deep care for Oakland-Craig's students make him the very definition of someone who goes Above and Beyond.

The NSAA's Above and Beyond Program is designed to recognize the hidden gems of communities across Nebraska. [Click here to nominate someone today!](#)